

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, President Biden promised to “shut down the COVID-19 virus, not the country.” He also promised “access to regular, reliable, and free COVID-19 testing.”

But as we near a year into his Presidency, he has failed to deliver on these basic promises. In the Trump administration we got Operation Warp Speed. However, for the Biden administration we seem to be getting operation no rush.

President Biden alone is to blame for the current testing shortage that the American people are facing. Just look at the facts.

In the spring of 2021, when a group of health agency officials approached the White House on a proposal to purchase millions of rapid tests, the White House officials never followed up.

In October 2021, White House officials rejected a proposal for free rapid tests for the holiday season.

In December 2021, President Biden announced that 500 million tests would be sent out in January 2022, however, the contract for these tests has yet to be signed.

The bottom line is that President Biden failed to meet his promises, and the American people are paying the price.

□ 1215

A RISE IN GUN SALES AND THE MURDER RATE

(Mrs. MCBATH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, the past year has seen an explosion in gun sales and, with it, a 30 percent rise in the murder rate.

Yet, at a time when the data becomes increasingly clear that more guns in the hands of those who should not have them results in more deaths of those who should still be alive and with us today, Republican officials across the country are trying to make it easier for anyone to wield guns around our children and our families.

Back in my home State of Georgia, our Governor is trying to implement permitless carry, irresponsible legislation that is dangerous for our law enforcement, dangerous for our families, and dangerous for the people that we love and cherish.

We cannot allow these destructive efforts to continue, and we must reaffirm our dedication to passing meaningful legislation that truly saves American lives.

THE CRISIS AT THE BORDER CONTINUES

(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, a week after my visit to the border to meet

with agents on the ground and survey the situation with my own eyes, I am here to report some unsurprising news. There is still a growing crisis at our Nation's southern border.

I saw firsthand how President Biden has ceded—not in farming, but given up—ceded control of the southern border to the cartels.

Thankfully, Texas Governor Abbott has stepped up to enforce the law, but Federal border agents continue to lack critical federally provided resources.

From halting construction of the wall and resisting the remain in Mexico policy, to releasing illegals into our interior and pursuing mass amnesty, this President and Democrats in Congress have incentivized a long-term border surge that will forever change our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to reverse these America-last policies, secure the border, and uphold law and order in the face of this current administration's refusal to do so.

NEW WAVE OF VOTER SUPPRESSION EFFORTS

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a wave of voter suppression efforts show their ugly heads across this country, a crisis of unprecedented proportion that is cracking at the very foundation of our democratic process.

Republicans have continued to push lies and conspiracy theories to depress voter turnout and sow mistrust in our elections at the highest levels.

It is time that we choose: the filibuster or our democracy. We cannot allow arcane Senate rules to stand in the way of this Congress upholding its most basic constitutional responsibilities, at one of the most critical junctures in our history.

It is incumbent on us to restore the voting rights protections that our Nation's civil rights leaders bled to secure.

This Congress can and will fight against these draconian measures, to restore and expand the sacred right to vote.

History will remember anyone who stands in our way.

JOBS DESTROYED UNDER PRESIDENT BIDEN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the December jobs report came in at less than half of what was projected. People continue to suffer at the hands of the Biden and Democrat policies. Jobs are being destroyed.

A recent national poll found that 68 percent of respondents said the economy was a top concern.

Inflation is a tax on all Americans, and it has gone up every month since the Biden Presidency. Gasoline is up 58 percent; propane, kerosene, and firewood are up 34 percent; bacon is up 21 percent; and hamburger is up 20 percent.

Real wages have decreased under Biden in 8 of his 10 full months in office, with a loss of \$5,000 per family.

The Democrat elite think they are smarter than everyone, and Democrat voters and Democrat media are ignorant to believe that trillions of dollars cost zero dollars.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. Sadly, we are in day 151 of Americans left behind, as cited by Sean Hannity.

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO FLIP-FLOP

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, MITCH MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans have repeatedly taken a stand against the truth and common sense by devoting themselves to the big lie, flip-flopping from previous positions with the aim of satisfying a virulent base to obtain power, defending the January 6 insurrection, and protecting violate radical extremists, passing dozens of anti-voting laws across the country, taking up dangerous and destructive efforts to take over and sabotage future elections, all with the aim of staying in power at the expense of democracy and what our Founders held dear.

The flip-flop continues with the filibuster. Let's be clear. MITCH MCCONNELL has a long record of changing the rules whenever it suits him, and he continues to mislead about the filibuster. There have been more than 161 changes made to the filibuster in the last five decades, with the filibuster altered to pass trade deals, tax cuts, and Supreme Court justices.

The filibuster is not in the Constitution, and the Founders only mentioned supermajority for impeachment.

They must do better on the other side of the aisle and the other side of this Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities towards Members of the Senate.

HONORING BOB WOOLEY

(Ms. HERRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, it is my great honor to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Bob Wooley.

Bob Wooley and I served together in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and he has a passion for the people. He served as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. He also

served in the Army during the Vietnam war. His passion for helping our veterans stems way beyond his service in the State; it stems throughout the Nation.

Bob is a no-nonsense cowboy. He has got a zest for life and a zest for serving God. He also has a zest for telling the truth, even if you didn't want to hear it.

I am honored today to recognize Bob and his beautiful wife of 48 years, Janna. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Today, in New Mexico, we are celebrating Bob Wooley's 75th birthday. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I wish Bob Wooley a happy 75th birthday.

RECOGNIZING LAKEWOOD POLICE AGENT ASHLEY FERRIS

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Agent Ashley Ferris of the Lakewood Police Department for her heroic actions which undoubtedly saved lives and protected our community from further violence.

On December 27, 2021, the Denver and Lakewood, Colorado, communities experienced a terrible tragedy. A gunman opened fire at multiple locations in Denver before traveling to Lakewood where he continued the shooting spree.

As a result of this gun violence, five lives were taken and two others were injured. My condolences go to the friends and family of the five victims of these murders: Alicia Cardenas, Danny Scofield, Sarah Steck, Alyssa Gunn-Maldonado, and Michael Swinyard. Jimmy Maldonado was injured as well as Agent Ferris, who bravely confronted and killed the gunman even after being shot in the abdomen, undoubtedly preventing additional loss of life.

The Lakewood Police Department said it best: "If not for the heroic efforts of Agent Ferris and other law enforcement, this incredibly violent tragedy could have been even worse."

Agent Ferris was previously recognized for her actions on the job in 2020 when she, along with two fellow Lakewood Police Officers, performed life-saving measures on a woman suffering medical distress. For her actions, she was presented with the department's Lifesaving Award.

I am thankful Agent Ashley Ferris was recently released from the hospital. I wish her a full and speedy recovery, and I extend my deepest appreciation for her bravery, sacrifice, and service to our community.

CALIFORNIA'S STATEWIDE DROUGHT EMERGENCY

(Mr. VALADAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of a statewide drought emergency, California has experienced much-needed rain and snowfall during these winter months.

While communities across my district are especially grateful for the rainfall we have encountered, I remain concerned that the State of California has already announced a zero percent allocation for water deliveries for this year.

I also remain concerned that the Bureau of Reclamation could possibly announce a similar water allocation for 2022 within the next month.

This is unacceptable.

We must work together to figure out a way to fully utilize the water we have access to in a way that benefits our communities and agriculture production. Farmers are desperate for water to grow their crops. Rural towns continue to face water shortages.

We need this rain, but we also need to do a better job of managing our resources. We have opportunities to move our water responsibly when the snowpack melts.

As you can see here, more than 5 million acre-feet of water was sent out to the ocean over this past year. This water could have gone a long way for our communities and for farmers in the Central Valley.

I have asked time and time again for support from the House majority to address this issue. The families of the Central Valley cannot continue to wait. I ask my colleagues yet again to join my efforts to improve water management in California.

BENEFITS OF THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share how the recent enactment of the bipartisan infrastructure law is already delivering for organized labor and businesses in the First District of Indiana.

My district is home to three airports that are drivers of our economy. They are essential to moving goods and people throughout the region and Nation and create good-paying jobs and increased economic opportunities.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, three regional airports are expected to receive funds under the bipartisan infrastructure law, including over \$150,000 to the Michigan City Municipal Airport, almost \$300,000 to the Porter County Regional Airport, and over \$750,000 to the Gary/Chicago International Airport.

I look forward to continuing the work in a spirit of cooperation with local and State officials to harness the impact of the bipartisan infrastructure law.

HONORING MATT PEDIGO

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Matt Pedigo of Allen County, Kentucky, who recently retired as general manager of the Citizen-Times newspaper in Scottsville.

After 22 years of reporting on the community he loves, Matt decided to put down his pen and pursue other ventures. At a time when many people are distrustful of the agenda of the media, Matt has been a shining star over the years, accurately reporting on current events and happenings in Allen County.

Through numerous interviews and conversations with Matt during my years in public service, I grew to appreciate his work ethic, knowledge of the issues, and passion for sharing the news with his community.

While he may be retiring, I know from my interactions with Matt that he is not finished making positive contributions to the community of Allen County and south-central Kentucky. I wish him nothing but the best in a well-earned retirement from journalism.

□ 1230

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDNA BROWN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to distinguished Ohio Senator Edna Brown, a trailblazer who recently passed away.

Edna Brown was a remarkable public servant from Toledo, Ohio, who dedicated her life and her three decades of service to improving the well-being and future of our community.

As the first and only African American to represent Lucas County in the Ohio Senate, she blazed a trail for many to follow at the highest level of elected office in Ohio.

She was a warm, inviting, and immensely kind person whose focus was always on public service and bettering the lives of the people she served, the people she truly loved.

Northwest Ohio lost a great champion. Her family lost a great mother and grandmother. America needs more people like Edna Brown in public service.

Her memory will live with us, and I know her legacy will inspire the next generation of Ohio's leaders, including women leaders.

I will include her life story and her obituary in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a tribute to her persevering accomplishments for our Nation's betterment.

Godspeed, Edna Brown. May the angels carry you very high, and may you rest in peace.